

## SAN JOAQUIN RIVER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

April 20, 2001  
Resources Building  
Sacramento, California

### **Action Team Report**

Paula Landis reported on Action Team Activities. The Action Team Meeting met twice in the previous month on March 2<sup>nd</sup> in Modesto and March 28<sup>th</sup> in Fresno. The topic of discussion in both meetings was to develop an MOU and Goals & Principles for the SJRMP. Efforts were made to prepare a document to bring to the April Advisory Council Meeting for possible action. In addition, several presentations were made from members asking for a letter of support and providing information on the Comp Study, Information Paper #1, and Prop 13/ISI Funding process. The next Action Team meeting will be held at NRCS in Modesto on May 16, 2001, at 1 p.m.

### **CALFED Update**

Wendy Halverson Martin, CALFED Deputy Director, attended the meeting to give a status report on CALFED and its funding. She mentioned that the Governor's budget commitment is \$500 million. Martin also informed the group that SB 23 passed and will be on the Assembly Floor the following week. Funding should be available next month. On the Federal side, Martin reported that two (2) Bills were authorized and that we are looking for a Federal contribution of \$400 million. Currently, funding is set at \$20 million. She also mentioned that the State and Federal governments are heavily engaged in budget discussions. A reminder was made that watershed proposals were due April 27, 2001 and Ecosystem PSPs should be out in May.

### **Presentations for Letters of Support**

There was a total of six (6) letters of support for approval under Action Items. Before the project proponents made their presentations, the group had a lengthy discussion on the letters of support from the SJRMP. Landis mentioned that the letters require the group's approval, but have not dealt with the consensus vote at this point. Members of the group began to offer suggestions and comments to what the letters of support should and should not say. Tim Ramirez and Landis will be making the changes to the letters and get them back to the project proponents before the due date.

Nettie Drake, CRMP, began the presentations with her proposal, Panoche/Silver Creek Watershed Assessment. Drake mentioned that funds were needed to finalize the assessment on the remaining two (2) subwatersheds totaling approximately 300,000 acres. She explained that once the assessment is completed, it would increase watershed knowledge and Best Management Practices (BMPs) could be developed.

Patrick Koepele, TRPT, gave the next presentation on the Tuolumne River Land Acquisition. Koepele mentioned that the letter of support is not for CALFED funding but to acknowledge the support from the SJRMP. TRPT is asking a letter of support for the acquisition in fee and in easement for two properties along the Tuolumne River. Koepele also mentioned that after acquiring both properties, there is potential for long term habitat and channel restoration projects.

The next presentation was given by Debbie North, SJRP&CT, on a capacity building project, "This River is Our River." North explained that the project consisted of public polling, outreach, and tracking of the program. She emphasized that bilingual outreach programs will also be conducted. A statement will be added to the letter to say that the SJRMP accepts the role and will work closely with the SJRP&CT in providing support for this program.

Finally, Chris Robinson, landowner, presented the remaining three proposals on the Merced River. They included the Lower Merced River Water Quality Baseline Assessment, Merced River Education Initiative, and River Town Hall Series for the Merced River Watershed. The proposals Robinson presented requested funds to conduct a water quality assessment, initiate an education curriculum, and create a series of informational programs about the Merced River.

### **SJRMP MOU/Basic Principles**

A draft MOU and Basic Principles were handed out at the meeting for member review and comments. Paula Landis explained to the group on how the MOU and Basic Principles were developed. Signatories for the MOU will be discussed at the next SJRMP Action Team Meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2001. The Basic Principles is close to completion and will be an Action Item for the next SJRMP Advisory Council Meeting on July 13, 2001.

### **Other**

Neil Dubrovsky, USGS, reported that there was a \$20 million reduction in the President's Budget to California. Dubrovsky also mentioned that many water quality programs are being cut.

Debbie North, SJRP&CT, passed out a pamphlet on the "Coke Hallowell Center For River Studies" Riverview Ranch. The center will have a public opening on Sunday, April 22, 2001 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. North explained that this center owned and operated by the SJRP&CT, is a place for school children and other visitors to see and learn about the past and future of the San Joaquin River.

Date of next meeting: July 13, 2001

**ATTENDEES AT  
SAN JOAQUIN RIVER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 20, 2001**

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